

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00773 181603Z

54

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 AGR-10

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 IO-11 /152 W

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R 181450Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9172

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GOBOTA

AMEMBASSY RASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0773

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, NU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICE INCREASES

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PAGE 02 MANAGU 00773 181603Z

REF: STATE 034044

1. REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL:

A) PRESENT RETAIL PRICE US\$1.53 PER LB FOR REGULAR GRIND COFFEE COMPARED WITH \$.95 BEFORE THE BRAZILIAN FROST.

(B) DOMESTIC PURCHASE INFERIOR (EXPORT REJECTED) GRADE OF COFFEE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION PAYING &65 TO \$70 PER CWT COMPARED WITH \$36 TO \$45 PRE-FROST.

(C) GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA HAS NO SPECIAL MEASURES WHICH EITHER ENCOURAGE OR RESTRICT COFFEE EXPORTS. GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS PRIVATE BANKS HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPLIED CROP FINANCING AND THE NATIONAL BANK IS PRESENTLY PREPARING A FINANCIAL PROGRAM FOR REPLANTING AND POSSIBLY EXPANDING ACREAGE.

(D) PRICES PAID PRODUCERS FOR EXPORT FOB ARE NOW US\$95 PER CWT COMPARED WITH \$50 PRIOR THE FREEZE. AVERAGE PRICE PAID 1975/76 CROP TO DATE IS \$83 PER CWT FOB.

(E) AN EXPANSION OF CREDIT TO PRODUCERS IS LIKELY. FERTILIZERS ARE EASILY AVAILABLE AND AT PRESENT PRICES WILL BE USED MORE HEAVILY.

2. GOVERNMENT CONTROLS IN COFFEE SECTOR ARE MINIMAL WITH INCREASED PRICES GOING DIRECTLY TO PRODUCERS OR BROKERS. THEBERGE

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